

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0023], with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] FIGS. 2A and 2B are cross-sectional views of the bag sealing apparatus 10 of FIGS. 1 and 2 that show alternative cross-sectional configurations for the apparatus 10. In FIG. 2A, the lugs 20 extend more outwardly from the receiver portion 14 than the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. In FIG. 2B, the lugs 20 extend downwardly from the receiver portion 14, and also extend outwardly from the receiver portion 14 at a location that is spaced apart from the opening 18, such that indented gripping surfaces 21 are provided between the lugs 20 and the ridges 19 and between the lugs 20 and midpoint “M” of the receiver portion 14. An advantage of providing indented surfaces on both sides of lugs 20 is that it provides a gripping surface for both pressing the sealing portion against the receiver portion (i.e., applying the seal) and applying a force to the lugs 20 such that sealing portion may be move through the opening of the sealing portion (i.e., removing the seal). Gripping surfaces for both applying and removing the seal are especially advantageous for users of the sealing apparatus who do not possess the strength and/or fine motor skills required to perform these actions without the aid of a gripping surface. Dual gripping surfaces are additionally advantageous, for example, when the sealing apparatus is used in environments in which gripping and handling of the sealing apparatus is difficult, such as for example cold temperature environments, wet/moist environments, zero gravity environments, and the like.